

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079525

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: OPIUM POPPY BAN: CONVERSATION WITH ESENBEL

1. ACTING ASST SEC DAVIES ARRANGED LUNCH AT DEPARTMENT ON 17 APRIL FOR ESENBEL TO WHICH HE INVITED DEA ADMINISTRATOR JOHN BARTELS ACCOMPANIED BY JACK CUSACK. NEA/TUR DIRECTOR DILLON ALSO PRESENT.

2. BARTELS AND CUSACK MADE FORCEFUL AND EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN VIEW OF TURKISH POPPY BAN FROM THE ENFORCEMENT POINT OF VIEW. BARTELS SHOWED IN DETAIL WHY BAN HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING COMBAT HEROIN PROBLEM IN EASTERN U.S. HE ALSO DESCRIBED INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM AS SEEN FROM HIS OFFICE.

3. ESENBEL DEFENDED TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN NOW FAMILIAR TERMS. HE REPEATED THAT NO DECISION YET MADE ADDING, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT DECISION RESTED ON TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S EVALUATION OF CONTROL PLAN NOW BEING FORMULATED. AT LUNCHEON HE SAID THERE GOOD CHANCE THAT OPIUM PLANTING WOULD BE RESUMED IN FALL UNLESS GOT CONCLUDED ITS CONTROL PLAN HAD HOLES IN WHICH CASE IT MIGHT
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BE DELAYED. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION LATER WITH DILLON HE

RETURNED TO THIS THEME UNDERLINING THAT HE WAS SAYING SOMETHING NEW -- I.E., DECISION RESTED ON GOT EVALUATION OF ITS CONTROL PLAN. HE ALSO SAID THAT SPEAKING "PERSONALLY

AND PRIVATELY" BEST WAY FOR USG TO DELAY TURKISH DECISION PASSED THE FALL WAS TO GET INTO DISCUSSION OF THE CONTROL PLAN "PICKING HOLES IN IT." DILLON WAS NONCOMMITTAL.

4. AT LUNCHEON WE SHOWED ESENBEL ANKARA'S 2925 REPORTING TURKISH PRESS TREATMENT OF KISSINGER-GUNES MEETING, POINTING OUT INACCURACIES IN STORIES. LATER ESENBEL TELEPHONED DILLON TO SAY HE HAD TALKED WITH FONMIN IN NEW YORK. GUNES HAD ASKED HIM TO TELL STATE DEPARTMENT THAT IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT OPIUM HE HAD SIMPLY TOLD REPORTERS THAT "EVERYTHING WAS DISCUSSED THAT COULD BE WITHIN ONE HOUR'S TIME LIMIT." EARLIER HE HAD TOLD REPORTERS THAT IT HAD BEEN A GOOD MEETING, THAT HE HAD A "GOOD IMPRESSION" OF THE SECRETARY AND THAT HE FELT "THE SECRETARY UNDERSTOOD OUR PROBLEMS." THIS WAS NOT IN CONTEXT OF OPIUM BUT TURKISH NEWSPAPERS HAD OBVIOUSLY REPORTED IT FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW. ACCORDING TO ESENBEL, GUNES ASKED HIM TO TELL STATE DEPARTMENT THAT ON RETURN TO TURKEY HE WILL TELL REPORTERS: "WE DID NOT DISCUSS OPIUM IN DETAIL." ESENBEL ADDED THAT THE TURKS HAD IMPRESSION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER PREFERRED TO DISCUSS OPIUM IN MORE DETAIL AT ANOTHER TIME AND SPECULATED THAT SUBJECT MIGHT COME UP AT CENTO MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MAY 21-22. KISSINGER

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